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Opposition Opinion: House Bill 6015

Reasons for opposition:

This bill would raise taxes.

A little history for the committee ... modern fire departments and ambulance services used to be voluntary organizations when first created in or about the early 1900's. The insurance companies funded them. The insurance companies used to issue placards that customers would place outside their house in a conspicuous place. When a call was made for service the department would drive to the house; if there was no placard, there was no service (i.e. they would let the house burn down).

Those days are long gone. No one is denied service due to a lack of payment.

Many insurance companies currently cover these costs in some of their plans. Some people are free to pay the premium for picking up these charges or not. Many policies do not allow one to opt out of this coverage so you pay for it if you like it or not.

Passage of this bill will not lower anyone's insurance premiums but will certainly raise taxes.

This practice of municipalities charging a nominal fee for ambulance service should be left up to the local governments. Why the state feels a need to muddy up local law is a mystery. People who feel affected by these charges already have an avenue to address relief from – the local body that approved of such charges as part of their budgeting processes.

I know the purpose seems reasonable the result will not be...just like the passage of Obamacare that now is being shown to will cost a family of 5 \$20,000 to get mandatory coverage. I think we have/will suffered enough under federal laws regarding health care costs; let's not get the state playing this game.

I oppose.